



BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

Vol. 26.11 Thursday, March 12, 2020

Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren

FREE

Joshua Burger wins arson conviction appeal after serving 15 months

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

Joshua Burger's jury conviction for setting his own business on fire was overturned by the Michigan Court of Appeals on Feb. 25 after he already had served 15 months in prison.



The Appeals Court reversed and vacated the defendant's conviction and sentence, and remanded him for a new trial.

Burger's appeals attorney Kevin S. Gentry of Howell insisted his client had no financial incentive to destroy his profitable pawn shop, Pawn Max, in Southgate.

In 2017, Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Paul Cusick wouldn't allow defense witnesses to testify on Burger's insurance coverage or personal finances. That decision "deprived the defendant of the ability to fully mount the defense that he had no financial motive to defraud the insurance company or set the building on fire," the appeals court said in a 3-0 decision.

Wayne County prosecutors are asking the appeals court to reconsider the opinion.

Burger's lawyers had argued that the pawn shop fire probably was caused by spontaneous combustion of oily rags Burger had been using for several days to clean a guitar and then placed in a can. Southgate Fire Chief Michael Sypula and Wyandotte Fire Chief Jeffrey Carley changed their testimony between the preliminary exam and the trial from finding two sources for the fire to finding just the one where the can with rags from the linseed oil was located. But they had not changed their written reports before trial or alerted the defense attorneys.

(continued on page 8)



McBride Middle School to present 'Hotel Escargot'

McBride Middle School will be presenting this year's play "Hotel Escargot" on Thursday, March 19 and Friday, March 20 at 6 p.m. and on Saturday, March 21 at noon.

Tickets go on sale at 5:15 p.m. on Thursday and Friday and at 11:15 a.m. on Saturday. Tickets are \$6 for adults and \$4 for students and seniors. The school's PTO will be offering concessions.

There are more than 45 students involved in the cast and crew of the play which is directed by Tracy Delfuoco and Pamela

O'Neill.

The play is set in the French Riviera where the annual Kantz France International Film Festival is about to take place. A hodgepodge of people come together at the elegant Hotel Escargot -- including wretched hotel owner Wynona Elmsley, her downtrodden staff, a couple of bumbling jewel thieves hoping to profit from the wealthy guests, an inept reporter from the Celebrity Network, and directors, producers, actors, investors and movie fans from all over the world.

As the reporter interviews world-

renowned film directors, the audience will see "film clips" of their movies, which are "artsy." Add a clueless police inspector, members of a royal family and Wynona trying to figure out which of her guests is really a reporter doing a write-up for the *Elegant Hotels* magazine, and there is one crazy time on the Riviera. The result is a comedy with several twists and turns along the way.

McBride Middle School is located at 41097 McBride Ave., just west of Quirk Road in Van Buren Township.

FIRST Robotics competition set this week end at BHS

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

Students and parents from throughout the region are expected to travel to Belleville on Thursday for this Friday and Saturday's FIRST Robotics competition at Belleville High School.

The competition, with a Star Wars theme this year, is open to the public without

charge, beginning just before 8 a.m. on Friday and Saturday. The Van Buren Public Schools will not be in session on Friday to make way for the large number of people attending the competition.

This is the third year the FIRST Robotics contest has been held at BHS.

Eight locations have cancelled their FIRST Robotics competition as of Sunday because of the coronavirus -- COVID-19 -- and some have postponed competition. On Monday, Van Buren Public Schools' officials said the BHS competition was still on and FIRST Robotics indicated on its website that the BHS competition was among those that would go on as scheduled.

The Belleville district event will feature 40 teams from across Southeast Michigan, including Team 6615 from BHS, the Belle Voxel Bots, who will compete for the district prize as well as for ranking points which will potentially earn them a berth in a state-wide competition.

The schedule:

Thursday, March 12

- Pit set up starting at 5 p.m.
- Pits close at 10 p.m.

Friday, March 13

- Doors open at 7:50 a.m. (access allowed to building)
- Pits open at 8 a.m.

(continued on page 14)

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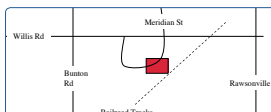
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SECOND FRONT PAGE

On second thought, two motions actually passed in VBT

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

At the March 3 meeting of the Van Buren Township Board of Trustees, Supervisor Kevin McNamara declared two motions as failing because the 3-2 vote did not reach the majority of the seven-member board, which is four votes.

Two members of the township board were absent from that meeting. Clerk Leon Wright was at a Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority meeting and Trustee Sherry Frazier was ill.

The two voting no were Trustees Reggie Miller and Paul White.

But, the next day, March 4, Supervisor McNamara sent out an explanation to the board members and the press that, actually, the motions had passed.

He wrote:

Dear Colleagues,

Last night we voted three to two to accept the two contracts for the landscaping and pillars at township hall. At the time there was confusion as to "did this mean the resolution passed or failed". At the time it was thought that a majority of the full board (4 votes) was required.

This was not the way that Robert's Rules has this issue stated. So the question is did we (Van Buren) change this for our purposes.

The Planning Commission is clear that a quorum is required to open the meeting and a vote of the majority of the full board is required for passage. This is clear. Majority of the board and not the sitting members at the meeting.

The Board of Trustees is less clear. Clearly the board requires a quorum to open -- but section seven states that a majority is required to pass. It does not state that it is a majority of sitting and not sitting members. In Robert's Rules it is stated as a majority also is required to pass. But they go on to describe a majority as a majority of those at the meeting -- opened by a quorum.

Robert's Rules states "a proposition must be adopted by a majority vote; that is, direct approval -- implying assumption of responsibility for the act -- must be registered by more than half of the members present and voting on the particular matter, in a regular or properly called meeting at which the necessary minimum number of members, known as a quorum is present".

Based on this, our attorney has advised us that these motions passed.

I have always believed that the will of the majority of the sitting quorum is what was required to pass an issue. It is that way in all of the other boards I have sat on in the past and present. It is also clear in Robert's

Rules that the "maker of a motion" (not seconder of the motion) cannot speak against the motion unless they remove their motion. Not a big deal just interesting trivia.

The motions before the board on March 3 were to select low-bidder Davenport Brothers Construction to do entry improvements at township hall at a cost of \$132,000 and to select low-bidder Crooked Tree Nursery of Owosso to do landscaping improvements around township hall at a cost of \$133,092.15.

Both motions are now considered passed and the work, to be coordinated between the two firms, is expected to be completed by the end of June.

The entryway work is to redo the 21 posts at the four township entryways which also included painting the undersides of all the roofs.

During the work/study session on March 2, Trustee Miller pointed out the pillars were going to cost more than \$6,000 each.

Trustee Miller asked why they didn't just sand and repaint the pillars and Public Service Director Matthew Best said they tried that and it lasts six to seven months and starts peeling again.

Supervisor McNamara said masonry is extremely expensive these days and Van Buren Township is very grateful to have Davenport in its backyard.

"This will last 30 years," Supervisor McNamara said.

Trustee Miller wanted to see a picture of what these pillars were going to look like since there were only engineering drawings presented to the board.

Director Best said the pillars were custom designed for the township, but he had a picture that sort of looks like it.

At the March 3 meeting, Director Best displayed a picture of what the pillars would look like, except they were different on the bottom.

As to the landscaping that would cost \$133,092.15, Director Best said it was designed by Russell Design, who also did the Splash Pad/Quirk Park.

Trustee Miller asked why they selected a landscaper out of Owosso and Director Best said Crooked Tree worked on the Downtown Development Authority project and did DDA projects in the past. They outbid local bidders Gonczy and Randy Brown.

On the Davenport contract, the motion was made by Treasurer Sharry Budd and seconded by Trustee White, and White then voted against it.

On the Crooked Tree Nursery contract,

(continued on page 17)



Belleville Mayor Kerreen Conley was sworn into office as the new chairperson of the Council of Western Wayne by Wayne County Treasurer Eric Sabree, left. Being sworn in, from left, are Canton Township Supervisor Pat Williams, who will serve as vice-chairman; Huron Township Supervisor David Glaab, secretary; Mayor Conley; and Wayne Mayor John Rhaesa, who is treasurer.

Belleville Mayor Conley to lead Council of Western Wayne in 2020

The Conference of Western Wayne (CWW), an association of 18 chief elected local officials in Michigan's largest county, announced today that it has selected its new 2020 leadership team -- and Belleville Mayor Kerreen Conley is the new chairperson.

The CWW 2020 Executive Committee is comprised of Chairperson Conley, Vice-Chairman Supervisor Pat Williams (Canton Township), Treasurer Mayor John Rhaesa (Wayne), Secretary Supervisor David Glaab (Huron Township) and Chair Emeritus Supervisor Robert Nix II (Northville Township), who led the CWW the last year. The committee was sworn in by the Honorable Eric Sabree.

"I am truly grateful to serve the 18 communities in Western Wayne County that make up this organization," said newly elected CWW Chairperson Conley.

"Our board has met monthly for well over four decades to not only share best practices between our local leaders, but to also take and advocate positions on state and federal legislation and county matters. Some of our primary focuses include: local government, public safety, substance use prevention, transportation and community and economic development. Our region is the most populated in the county and we pride ourselves on working together to promote Western Wayne."

The CWW is a bi-partisan group that works collectively to discuss mutual issues, share information and generally improve the quality of life for the nearly 700,000 residents who live in the region. CWW also serves as the 911 Service District for Western Wayne County.

The CWW communities are the cities of

Belleville, Dearborn, Dearborn Heights, Garden City, Inkster, Livonia, Northville, Plymouth, Romulus, Wayne and Westland, and the townships of Canton, Huron, Northville, Plymouth, Redford, Sumpter and Van Buren.

"The Conference of Western Wayne has worked with Wayne County on many state and local issues," said Wayne County Treasurer Eric Sabree. "The county and CWW work together to continue open lines of communication between our local leaders and Wayne County, and also to ensure that citizens' first line of government, local government, has not only a local voice, but representation at the state and federal levels as well. Organizations like CWW help create partnerships throughout Wayne County through collaboration and advocacy."

The CWW area is 340 square miles, bordered by Washtenaw County to the west, Oakland County to the north, the City of Detroit to the east, and Monroe County to the south.

Despite the diversity of size, economic development and population density, these communities have been working together -- regionally -- to enhance this area of Wayne County for over 40 years.

"All of our 700,000 residents and 340 square miles are impacted by the decisions and laws that are made at the federal, state and county levels," said Mayor Conley. "It is vital that we continue to collaborate in order to create the best solutions possible to the challenges we face."

The 18 members of CWW selected the new leadership at its board meeting on Feb. 14 in the City of Romulus.

O P I N I O N S

Editorial

Library bee hives coming in April

Tuesday's regular meeting of the Belleville Area District Library Board was in its new meeting room in the brand-new library for the first time. The Rotary Club had just finished meeting in its meeting room downstairs and a homeowners' group also was meeting in another room. The place was buzzing with activity.

And, the library board unanimously approved the long-proposed honeybee hives on the roof. It's final. Three hives will go up in April and they will be on the very top roof where people won't be able to see them.

There had been hopes library users could watch the hives out a window, but that didn't work out. They will be on the roof. You will be able to see the vegetative lower roof full of clover and other plants that will attract the bees. Actually, these bees will go up to three miles for pollen.

Bees in the D is coordinating the project and library board member John Juriga is making it all happen. Deputy Director Hilary Savage is learning about the bees from that group and in a year she may take over the bees – maybe.

Therese Antoinelli of Moving the Mitten has donated one of the hives. Board secretary Joy Cichewicz, who has bee hives at her Sumpter Township home, said honeybees are hairy, fuzzy, warm, and friendly and don't attack unless they feel threatened – only sting one time and then dies. Nothing to fear.

Pollinators are so important to life and we welcome these to the Belleville area.

EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

...By Rosemary K. Otzman

Mike Windiate at Belleville Hardware informs us that Mike Foley is working to get Frosty Boy open for the summer. His cancer treatments are over and he's having some good days and some not-so-good days, we're told. Belleville isn't Belleville without Frosty Boy.

Geraldine Jackson of Elwell Road in Van Buren Township got a letter in the mail from All Regions Lottery Services with a official looking check for \$8,972.50 from BlueCross BlueShield of Montana. It was to pay the tax, insurance, shipping and handling on her winnings of \$500,000, which will be delivered to her by certified check by their special courier company.

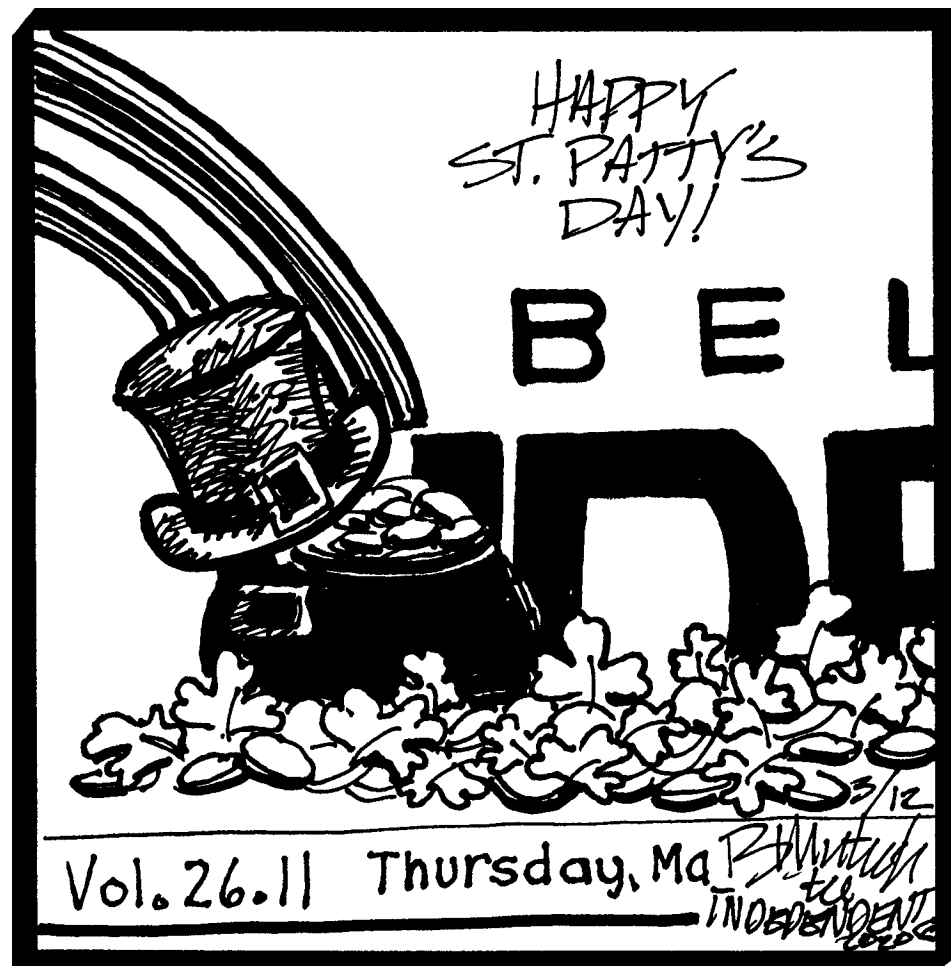
She took the check to her bank last Thursday and they said it was a scam. She brought it to us to tell the community so others wouldn't be caught in the scam.

She also planned to take it to the VBT Police Department to show them.

If she had been able to cash the check and started spending the money, she would soon learn she has to pay all the money back from her funds, since the check would bounce. And, in order to qualify, she would have had to give the personal information listed.

Geraldine said, "Whoever *they* are thinks we Baby Boomers aren't paying attention to things, but we are!"

Kathy called to tell of a believable scam call that she got on Wednesday, March 4. It was on her land line and came from New Jersey and purported to be her grandson with a broken nose, so his voice was different. She said her grandchildren call



her "Nina" not grandma, so she was alerted at once.

The boy said he had been in a car accident while attending a wedding in New Jersey and was at the courthouse right then. He asked her not to tell his mother so she wouldn't worry.

Kathy said she was a legal secretary for 16 years and this appeared legitimate. The caller said the court-appointed attorney would call her right back from the First Municipal County Courthouse in New Jersey, but when she checked she found that courthouse doesn't open until 1:30 p.m. on Wednesdays.

When the so-called attorney called, she told him she was going to tell the boy's mother and the "attorney" hung up.

Needless to say, it wasn't her grandson. She wants others to be aware of the scam.

The Eagle newspaper regularly steals stories from the *Independent* and runs them the following week, to give the impression it has coverage in a wider area than is actually covered by its reporters. If I make a mistake in the story we've published, the mistake often is reprinted in *The Eagle*. I'm thinking of running a tally of the stories stolen each week, so our readers will understand what's going on. The only story we've seen on Sumpter Township in a long time was in the March 5 edition of *The Eagle*, the week after Sumpter made

The Eagle its newspaper of record. It was on its front page and repeated the story on the paintball field we had on our front page on Feb. 27. I covered the Feb. 20 Sumpter Township Planning Commission in person. There was no reporter from *The Eagle* at that meeting.

In its March 5 edition, *The Eagle* also took a portion of our Belleville City Council meeting that we published Feb. 27. It was about Councilman Tom Fielder talking about poor building conditions at city hall and how they should sell the building.

On Friday afternoon a Van Buren Township fire truck was traveling down Main Street with its siren making a strange, loud sound. The truck was driving at a regular speed, with no lights flashing, but drivers pulled over to the side anyway. On the fire scanner we heard someone explaining they couldn't turn off the siren and were trying to get it back to the fire department to fix it.

School Board President Amy Pearce and secretary Darlene Gerick are volunteering at this weekend's FIRST Robotics competition at BHS. More volunteers are needed, according to event coordinator Victor DeLibera. If you've got some time, you are welcome to pitch in to help.



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"To punish me for my contempt for authority, fate made me an authority myself."
 — Albert Einstein

Letters

Fund raiser set Sunday for Tony Holder family

To the editor:

Recently Tony Holder, who is the husband of one of my best friends, Brenda, was diagnosed with cancer. As in most cases this has hit the family very hard since Tony is the sole source of income for the family.

He has had surgeries, test and scans. He is currently undergoing aggressive radiation and chemo.

A fundraiser is being held on Sunday, March 15, from 2-6 p.m. at the Ypsilanti Eagles, located at 2935 Holmes Rd. Dinner will be pot roast, onions, carrots, potatoes, salad, bread and dessert. \$12 per person.

Try your luck and win a raffle basket. There will be a baked goods auction, as well. Hope to see you there.

Page McLaughlin
 Van Buren Township

Senator Schumer threatened two Justices

To the editor and neighbors:

Recently, I witnessed a disgraceful scene on TV that I have never before in my lifetime witnessed and sincerely hope to never again see or hear.

Democrat senate minority leader Chuck Schumer, vehemently threatened two of our Supreme Court Justices as he spoke on the issue of "abortion." He proclaims the issue is "close to his heart" as he raved and ranted showing both hate and anger. The issue is "close to his heart." Really? Surely, he must know, if he would be honest and stop playing the game of politics, that to STOP the hearts of babies, even living and breathing newborn babies, all in the name/ game of politics, is plain and simple -- the truth is, call it what it is -- it's MURDER!

I am fully aware of what a "hot" issue abortion is, and I deplore even the word especially when anyone associates it with the unlawful termination of a human life, simply and wholly for political gain! NEVER, would I dare to stand among a crazed, pro-abortion crowd, deliberately spewing hate and anger, threaten anyone who might oppose me, let alone our nation's Supreme Court Justices!

How dare he consider himself mightier and more worthy than our country's God-given trust and truth in our rule of law!

In today's culture, it is apparent and oh! so loud and visual, that in order to have one's opinion heard, one must visually and vocally, show opposition by demonstrating both hate and anger! Mob mentality at its ugliest!

Wake up, Democrats, and learn to live with the TRUTH*. With God's help -- it will set you free! Let's each of us honestly, thoughtfully, and earnestly look to past cultures, when neighbors peacefully and amicably debated so-called "hot issues."

Please join me in reading: Ephesians 4:25 -- "Wherefore, putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbor; for we are members one of another."

* TRUTH: "That which is considered to be the ultimate ground of reality."

American Heritage Dictionary
 5th edition

GOD BLESS AMERICA.

Thank you,
 (Mrs.) Ruth E. Bleeker
 Belleville

Who received 40% of the profit from festival?

To the editor:

Recently you published a piece about the Strawberry Festival. I read with interest that two people had received 40% of the profits from the festival. I would like to know the names of these persons and the amount of monies they received. I would also like to go a step further and request you publish a complete account of the monies received from the festival.

I am curious how much was actually given out to the charitable organizations who have assisted the festival throughout the years. The Strawberry Festival used to be an event that valued community involvement. Over the years I have seen the festival evolve from a family-oriented event to what it is today, just another venue for certain persons to gain profit at the expense of the community.

Thank you,
 Tony Gibson
 Van Buren Township

Editor's Note: At the Feb. 18 meeting of the Belleville City Council, Executive Director of the festival Joan Bodnar and vendor coordinator Sharon Pokerwinski, who were present, were said to have been paid 40% of the profits of the festival and neither denied the figure. Pokerwinski's current signed agreement shows she gets \$1,000 per month from January through May (\$5,000) and 20% commission on the vendor fees collected. Bodnar's agreement calls for payment of \$1,000 a month for 12 months (\$12,000) plus 25% commission on sponsorships and pay-for-play groups.

Strawberry Festival committee to meet Tuesday, March 17

The Belleville National Strawberry Festival committee will meet at 5 p.m., Tuesday, March 17, at Victory Station at Five Points in Belleville.

The public is welcome to attend and offer input.

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More Letters

Letters I'm getting are moving, powerful

To the editor and the people of Sumpter Township:

Thank you for the kind words and encouragement. I still can't believe all the support that continues to come in. Some of the letters I have read are so moving and powerful, I have to sit down in my seat to gather my emotions. I know God is bringing us all together for a reason. I will never give up the fight for you and our beautiful township.

I want to address concerns about Supervisor John Morgan, because he fails to acknowledge or remedy too many problems. John Morgan has been appointing and endorsing the wrong people for Sumpter and giving them far more of our hard-earned dollars than they deserve. For anyone who doesn't know, in 1985, Sharon Pokewinski stole about \$38,000 from mostly seniors in their 70s and 80s who showed up at the township hall to pay their taxes. Some of these victims unfairly lost their homes due to wrongful delinquencies. Why was Sharon appointed back into the municipality after such an egregious action?

Does John Morgan even know the number of properties he has purchased within the township since he was treasurer? I have found that he has purchased parcels for as little as \$1. The people we trust to lead our community have been jumping through hoops in order to purchase property that should be auctioned at a price that could bring value to our township. Why do you suppose Robert Young is a real estate attorney, instead of a municipal lawyer?

All the money and assets this administration has taken should have gone towards helping Sumpter and the people. Imagine if the township could have benefited from all the money taken, we wouldn't have to rely so heavily on the taxpayers for updating infrastructure, such as roads, new grinder pumps, etc. Mr. Morgan appears to be a genuine and caring man at the front of the board and he thought he could proceed unnoticed, but I won't let it go.

If the people of Sumpter Township can trust me and place me into office, together we can all find out the answer to how much

(continued on page 9)

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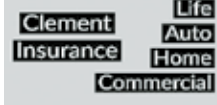
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Ceremonial Rental Casket	\$1,095.00
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Cremation Authorization	\$75.00
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Obituaries



Patricia Marie Thomas

PATRICIA MARIE THOMAS
(September 14, 1938 – March 6, 2020)
Age 81, of Van Buren Township. Died peacefully at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital (Superior Township Campus), Friday, March 6, 2020.

Patricia is the beloved mother of Tracie Nutt of Belleville, Stacy (Daniel) Lipkowski of Maybee, and Terri (Anthony Pace) Thomas of Ypsilanti; loving grandmother of Elizabeth Lipkowski of Maybee and Anthony Pace Jr. of Ypsilanti. Mrs. Thomas is also survived by niece, Pamela (Pat) Walsh of Michigamme. Her special friends, Tracy (Kimberly) Rea-Harris of Ypsilanti and her dog "Molly". Sadly, Patricia is preceded in death by Darin Lipkowski (d.2014). Born on September 14, 1938 to Charles and Margaret Major in Detroit, Patricia has lived in the Belleville area for many years. A real estate agent in the area, Patricia enjoyed trips to the casino, shopping at flea markets, traveling by car to the upper peninsula of Michigan and spending time with her family and friends. She was very loved and will be missed.

Funeral services were held at 4 p.m., Monday, March 9, 2020 at the David C. Brown Funeral Home of Belleville, (734)697-4500. The Reverend Gordon Moore officiated Patricia's service. Patricia's family greeted guests from 2 p.m. until 4 p.m. In lieu of flowers, memorial tributes may be directed to the American Diabetes Association.

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Mark David Miles

MARK DAVID MILES
(May 26, 1954 – March 4, 2020)
Age 65, of Sumpter Township, died peacefully at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital (Superior Township campus), Wednesday, March 4, 2020. Mark is the loving companion of Louise Chance for twenty wonderful years; dear father of Emily Farkas of Wyandotte; cherished brother of Suzanne (the late Donald) Sattleberg of Caro and John (Mary) Miles of Plymouth. Mr. Miles is also survived by his granddaughter Nia and many loving extended family and friends. Sadly, he is preceded in death by his twin brother, Clark (d. 2014).

Born to Albert and Dorothy Miles on May 26, 1954 in Ypsilanti, Mark was a graduate of Belleville High School (Class of 1973). He continued his education at Eastern Michigan University, graduating with a B.A. in psychology. An accomplished musician, Mark could play a number of instruments and enjoyed singing, as well. Also, magic was a favorite pastime -- he was always doing magic tricks for family and friends. In his spare time, he was very active visiting the Sumpter Moose Lodge. He was very loved and will be truly missed.

Funeral services were conducted on Monday, March 9, 2020 at 11 AM in the main chapel of David C. Brown Funeral Home, 460 E. Huron River Drive, Belleville. The Miles family greeted guests from 10 AM. The Reverend Gordon Moore officiated the service. Visiting hours were also arranged for Sunday from 2 - 8 PM at the funeral home.

The Belleville Moose Lodge #934 held a funeral ritual ceremony at 7:30 PM Sunday. Mr. Leroy Schmeltz led the ritual ceremony.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be directed to the Belleville Moose Lodge #934. www.davidcbrownfh.com

Things to do in the Belleville area...

• **Thursday, March 12** – Van Buren Township Senior Center is holding a Jewelry Purse & Bag Super Sale to benefit the center, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., 46425 Tyler Rd., Van Buren Township, (734) 699-8918.

• **Thursday, March 12** – Homegrown Knowledge presentation at the Belleville Area District Library has been rescheduled for April 9. There will be no Homegrown Knowledge event in March.

• **Friday, March 13, and Saturday, March 14** – FIRST Robotics competition at Belleville High School, hosting teams from throughout the region. Open to the public free of charge, beginning at 8 a.m. on Friday and 9 a.m. on Saturday. This year's theme is Star Wars.

• **Sunday, March 15** – Sunday Music from 2 to 5 p.m. at September Days Senior Center, 46425 Tyler Rd. This week it's Jay/Sax.

• **Tuesday, March 17** – St. Patrick's Day Dinner at the Van Buren Eagles, 9961 Beck

Rd. Cost per dinner is \$15 and it will be served from 5 to 8 p.m. or until gone. Meals is: Corned Beef, cabbage, carrots, potatoes, rutabagas, bread and butter.

• **Tuesday, March 17** – Belleville National Strawberry Festival committee will meet at 5 p.m. at Victory Station. The public is invited to attend.

• **Tuesday, March 17** – Open meeting of the Belleville Area Lions Club, 6-7:30 p.m., Ted Scott Campus, Wayne County Community College

• **Thursday, March 19** – "When Mark Twain Came to Michigan" is the program from 6-8 p.m. at the Belleville Area Museum, 405 Main St., Belleville, featuring Al and Dave Eicher. Free to members of the Historical Society; \$5 for non-members. Pizza, salad, and pop served at 5:30 p.m.

• **Thursday, March 19** – Fund raiser for the Belleville Kiwanis starts at 6 p.m. at the Belleville Moose Lodge at the corner of Sumpter and Harris roads. "Quarter Mania w/Stacy" has an entry fee of \$10 and participants must be 18 years old and older. See QuarterMania.Stacy on Face Book, Instagram or Twitter for more information.

Burger

(continued from page 1)

Burger, 32, who grew up in Sumpter Township, was paroled June 4, 2019 and his supervision discharge date is June 4, 2020. The date of offense was April 12, 2017 and he was sentenced on March 7, 2018 to 15 months to 20 years.

Defense attorneys David Griem and Krstina Joseph said they felt a critical witness, insurance adjuster Craig Becker, should have been allowed to testify. Becker's testimony would have rebutted the prosecution's insurance witness' testimony and arguments made by prosecution that all damage to Burger's business would have been automatically reimbursed under his insurance policy.

Burger had filed an insurance claim related to the fire in the amount of \$574,954.68 for loss of contents. His insurance policy included coverage for fire damage, but a claim would not be paid if defendant was found to be responsible for the damage.

The attorneys presented a six-page memo to the judge on March 5, 2018, two days before sentencing, asking for alternative sentencing. In a series of statements included in the memo, Burger was described as a "beloved, caring and generous member of a strong family with a wide network of friends and colleagues."

Burger reportedly owned Southgate Exchange, Inc., the business, but not the building. He and his father Chris Whitt purchased the pawnshop in 2012 for \$125,000 on a five-year land contract and it was paid off within six months.

At trial, Whitt testified that the rent, utilities, payroll and taxes were current. In 2016, the pawn shop had turned a profit of \$427,000. As of the day of the fire, the pawn shop had turned \$126,000 in profit and was on track to make more than \$500,000.

Whitt further testified that the defendant had no financial problems, had a credit score of above 790, and believed financial stability was important.

The appeals court stated, "Because defendant should have the opportunity to fully present a defense, we vacate his conviction and sentence, and remand for a new trial."

Burger's landlord and owner of the building Diane Desantis was also excluded from trial testimony. In a written statement after the trial she said that she enjoyed having Burger as a tenant and would welcome him back in a heartbeat. In the memo, she said several months before the fire, Burger put an expensive new sign on the outside of the business.

Court Watching:

Judge Parrott recuses himself from case where friends are witnesses

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

Matthew Mark Taylor, 26, of Sumpter Township was standing before 34th District Court Judge David Parrott on Feb. 5 for his preliminary exam on four case folders holding 11 felony charges against him.

Wayne County Assistant Prosecutor Danielle Shamus told Judge Parrott that the People were prepared to proceed, but she had just learned that two witnesses were familiar with the judge: Keith and Kurt Johnston.

Judge Parrott replied, "Now I know why they're here." He said he saw them in his courtroom and wondered about it.

Judge Parrott said Keith Johnston is on the school board, helped with his campaign and the court has used Johnston's printing business in the past. And, Kurt Johnston helped the judge a couple of months ago when the judge was buying an auto.

Judge Parrott said it would give an appearance of impropriety with witnesses for him to hear the case and he believes it is the same for all three judges in the court, since they all know the Johnstons.

"It's too close," Judge Parrott said. "I'm going to recuse myself."

He said since all three judges would recuse themselves, the cases would probably be assigned to another district court.

Prosecutor Shamus said she is assigned only to the 34th District Court so she wouldn't be able to go with the case.

Judge Parrott asked if they would be resetting the probable cause conference that was already held at 34th District Court and the court appointed defense attorney Robert De'Angelo Burton-Harris said he didn't know.

Judge Parrott said the 34th District Court will be contacted on where the case will be sent.

Attorney Burton-Harris asked Judge Parrott to order that the GPS tether defendant Taylor is wearing have no time restrictions.

Prosecutor Shamus said she would like the tether to stay in place but having no time restrictions is okay with her.

"You got it," Judge Parrott said to Burton-Harris, concerning having no time restrictions.

Judge Parrott said he could see they wanted the defendant to stay away from the

address where the larcenies were reported. "I apologize, but we will get this moving," Judge Parrott said.

Keith Johnston said catalytic converters were stolen from vehicles at his printing business and the adjoining car lot at 11370 Hunt St. in Romulus.

He said when he finally was able to talk to the prosecutor on Feb. 5, he told her that he was friends with the judge. Johnston said he apologized, but Prosecutor Shamus said that telling of the relationship was the right thing for Johnston to do, although it upset the case schedule.

Taylor's cases are:

- #20-0094 – two larceny from a motor vehicle counts on Jan. 6 in Romulus;
- #20-0095 – two counts of larceny from a motor vehicle and one count of assaulting/resisting/obstructing a police officer on Jan. 9 in Romulus;
- #20-0096 – one count of being in possession of stolen property and one count of larceny from a motor vehicle on Oct. 25, 2019 in Romulus; and
- #20-0097 -- two counts of larceny between \$1,000 and \$20,000; and two

counts of receiving and concealing stolen property between \$1,000 and \$20,000 in value on Oct. 21, 2019 in Van Buren Township.

The cases have been reassigned to visiting Judge Terrence Bronson on March 18. Judge Bronson is filling in for Judge Parrott who is on a leave of absence.



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(July 29, 1935 - March 10, 2013)

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Forever in our hearts.*

-- Kenny, Vonda, Steve,
& her sister Margaret



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More Letters

(continued from page 6)

waste, fraud, and abuse has transpired. I will disclose everything I discover transparently. Any property and money I can recover will go back into the township for the benefit of this community.

To all the seniors, and everybody else struggling to make ends meet, I can give you my word; just hold on. You've already played your part for the community, and I plan to make great things happen for you.

Thank you,
Nelson S. Po
Sumpter Township
Any comments are appreciated and you can send me a note here:
PO Box 2293, Belleville, MI 48112, or
NelsonPo8822@gmail.com

'I am glad to hear that someone wants to help'

Editor's Note: The following unsigned letter is dated Feb. 28 and was received by Nelson Po on March 5. He has given his approval to print it.

Dear Mr. Nelson,
I enjoy reading your letter you wrote in the *Independent*. Yes, we need help in Sumpter really bad. Especially for us old people and widows. I'm 85 years old in August. I need help on our school taxes. It's so hard on me, trying to live in my home my last years. Sometimes I pay taxes before I buy food for myself, two times per year. So hard on me.

If you could keep writing, let people know you will help us. I am so glad to hear that somebody wants to help us. Instead of laughing at us people that come up to the

hall to ask for help.

For reasons I cannot sign this letter. But, I will keep up with your letters and will help you for sure. So sorry for all the mistakes in this writing.

Thank you so much.



- March 3 – Ginny Gears
- March 13 – Tom Mytych
- March 14 – Anthony Bostic, Jr.
- March 18 – Walter Rochowiak
- March 21 – Ramon Razo
- March 26 – William Robert Oztman

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– John Lennon

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Romulus names Robert J. Pfannes Interim Police Chief

The city of Romulus has sworn in Robert J. Pfannes as interim chief of the Romulus Police Department. Chief Pfannes will serve while Chief Jadie Settles is on medical leave.

Chief Pfannes, who worked in law enforcement for more than 32 years, recently retired as Chief of Police for the City of Ann Arbor Police Department after also having served with the Garden City Police Department. During his career in law enforcement, Chief Pfannes has been a road patrol sergeant, detective, SWAT team leader, undercover narcotics officer, and lieutenant and Special Threats Incident Commander for the City of Ann Arbor.

"Chief Pfannes has a deep commitment to public service, a holistic approach to policing and the belief that a police department is at its best when it partners with the community it serves," Director of Human Resources Kevin Losen said at the swearing-in ceremony on March 4.

Chief Pfannes has served on numerous boards and committees, including the Washtenaw Police Academy Advisory Board. He has presented at the University of Michigan Ross School of Public Policy, taught at the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police and has served as an instructor at Schoolcraft College's Western Wayne Regional Police Academy for 27 years.

"I am excited to be joining the Romulus family today," said Chief Pfannes. "I commit to you that every decision I make will be in keeping with the best interests of the city, its residents, the police department and its mission."

Officer Eric Smith was also promoted to sergeant during the ceremony. Smith has been with the Romulus Police Department for almost seven years.



Romulus Officer Eric Smith, who has been with the Romulus Police Department for almost seven years, was promoted to sergeant.

34th District Court to close March 13 for training

The 34th District Court has announced it will be closed to the public on Friday, March 13, for in-house training.

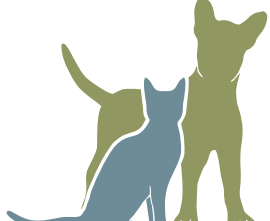
The court will reopen to the public on Monday, March 16, at 8 a.m.

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Robert J. Pfannes, retired Chief of Police for the City of Ann Arbor, has been sworn in as interim chief of the Romulus Police Department to serve while Romulus Chief Jadie Settles is on medical leave.

SPRING INTO BETTER HEARING!

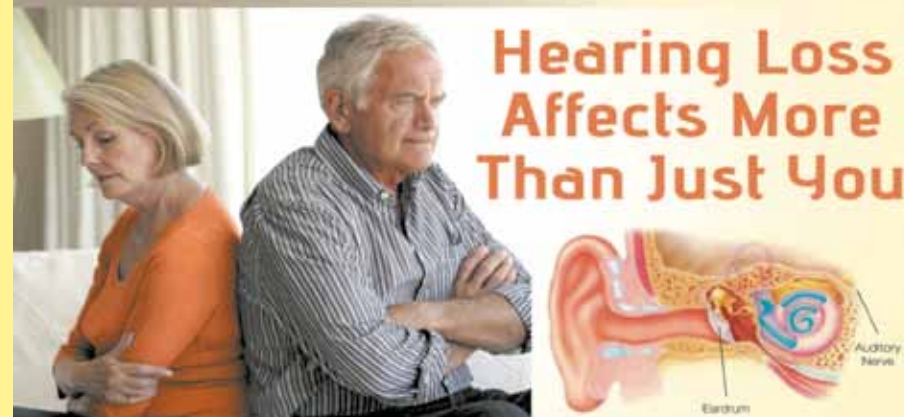
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Taking part in the project were, from left, Elias Kment, Miles Falconer, Kailyn Randall, Isaiah Askew, Principal Aleisa Pitt, Lillian Modzelewski, and Heidyn Rankin.

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Tyler Elementary students product drive Astonishes All!

The student leaders at Tyler Elementary School recently decided to hold a competitive product drive to benefit the "Friday Fill-up!" program at Trinity Episcopal Church in Van Buren Township.

"Friday Fill-up!" provides food kits to local school children at risk for food insecurity over the weekend.

Tyler's student leadership group, the Lighthouse Team, selected boxed macaroni and cheese as the item for competition. All the classrooms participated to see which room could bring in the most boxes. The winning classroom was promised a macaroni and cheese party hosted by Tyler Elementary Principal Aleisa Pitt.

Jennifer Kitchen's class won the schoolwide contest with 467 boxes donated and they are looking forward to enjoying their macaroni and cheese feast as a reward for their efforts.

A total of 2,081 boxes of macaroni and cheese were donated.

Gabby Burton

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34th District Court Magistrate Lisa Martin laid off for budget issue

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

On Feb. 20 the *Independent* published information that the visiting judge at 34th District Court to fill in for Judge David Parrott would be without further expense.

On March 4, 34th District Court Chief Judge Brian A. Oakley said that information obviously came from the state because many courts have visiting judges built into their regular budgets without further expense, but that isn't the case for 34th District Court.

He said the 34th District Court hired retired District Court Judge Terrence Bronson of Monroe to handle Judge Parrott's felony dockets and probable cause conferences every three weeks and to come in every Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, as needed.

He said the state of Michigan requires the 34th District Court to pay Judge Bronson \$500 a day, without setting how long a

"day" is.

Judge Oakley said he, Judge Tina Brooks Green, and Judge Bronson will be doing the probable cause conferences in the afternoons, that had been done by attorney Magistrate Lisa Martin since she was hired in May 2018.

Magistrate Martin was laid off, he said, because of budget considerations.

Judge Oakley said former court administrator and non-attorney magistrate Al Hindman is back from his retirement at a set price.

In a Feb. 12 letter to Judge Oakley, Judge Parrott submitted his plan to step back from the bench temporarily and estimated he would be able to return within 45 to 60 days. He continues to receive his salary.

Judge Parrott, who is up for reelection this fall, is fighting two misdemeanor charges: a Dec. 25, 2018 drunk-driving arrest in Manistee County that currently is awaiting word from the Michigan Court of Appeals,

and a domestic violence charge in Van Buren Township that is wending its way through the 35th District Court in Plymouth because keeping it at the 34th District Court would be a conflict of interest.

Former Magistrate Martin and her husband, Van Buren Township Trustee Kevin Martin, have lived in VBT for 12 years. She unsuccessfully ran for 34th District Court judge in 2014.

Martin earned her undergraduate degree at Harvard University and her law degree from the University of Michigan and has been practicing law for 20 years, mainly in district courts.

Those circulating petitions, so far, to run for the six-year 34th District Court Judge position are attorneys Alexandria Taylor, Lisa Martin, and Robert Coutts. Parrott filed for reelection last fall.

Court Watching

John Phillips bound over on fraudulent prescription charge

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

John George Phillips, 51, of Fenton was bound over to circuit court for a March 11 arraignment on the information after a preliminary exam on Feb. 26. He is free on \$10,000 personal recognizance bond.

Phillips is charged with obtaining by fraud a controlled substance (attempt to conspire/solicit) on Aug. 3 at the CVS pharmacy at 144 Main St. in downtown Belleville.

The preliminary exam took place in 34th District Court Judge David Parrott's courtroom with visiting Judge Terrence Bronson presiding.

There were two witnesses brought by Assistant Wayne County Prosecutor Holland Roper.

The first witness testified that a prescription had been called in under this name to CVS in Plymouth and they called him. He said nobody had permission to pick this up for him and this was not his prescription. Somebody attempted to pick it up at the CVS in Belleville.

He said a Belleville officer called him and told him they had arrested someone.

Belleville Police Officer Sara Dzagulones was the second witness. She said she was dispatched after the pharmacy called police about a suspicious prescription.

Officer Dzagulones said she took her statement and investigated. She said she called the victim and spoke to him at length about what prescriptions he uses. She said she called the doctor on the prescription and he, apparently, no longer is in practice.

She identified defendant Phillips as the one who picked up the prescription. She said she asked him about the prescription and he said somebody sent him to pick it up.

Judge Bronson bound Phillips over to the

Frank Murphy Hall of Justice.

Defense attorney was Jeffrey Knoche, who was appointed by the court.

Charles Wooten

Charles Wooten, 25, of Van Buren Township, was scheduled for a preliminary exam on Feb. 26 and Judge Bronson agreed to adjourn that until March 18.

Wooten is charged with assault with a dangerous weapon (felonious assault) on March 24, 2019 in Van Buren as well as a misdemeanor count of malicious destruction of property between \$200 and \$1,000.

He is free on \$5,000 personal recognizance bond. His court-appointed attorney is Jeffrey Knoche and the Assistant Wayne County Prosecutor is Lori Mireles-Smith.

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stump removal, lot clearing and firewood. Owner Jeremy Reber is fully insured, too. See his business card in today's paper and call (734) 250-3855.

Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue of Sumpter will be holding a handful of pet adoption events this month starting with this Saturday, March 14, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Pet Emporium on Stadium

Blvd. in Ann Arbor. On March 21, FMAR will be at Petco Pet Store in Westland, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The no-kill shelter also offers basic obedience classes throughout the year. Call (734) 461-9458. The folks there will gladly bring a specific animal for you to either location, simply visit their website and give them a call. Visit www.friendsofmichigan.org.

Congratulations to Belleville High School wrestler Blake Williams (46-7, 160 lbs.) for his third-place finish at the individual wrestling state Division 1 finals held last weekend at Ford Field. Great job! There's still time to get into spring sports at Belleville High School with practice under way in soccer, baseball, track, golf, lacrosse, and tennis. For tryout info visit the BHS Athletic Office or call (734) 697-0016.

Thank you to Faith Assembly Church of Belleville and Ridge Road Church of Christ in Ypsilanti for renewing your weekly ad in our church directory. Faith Assembly Pastor Doug Valentine offers Sunday School at 10 a.m. and worship service at 11 a.m. every week, and kids' classes, youth group, and Boy Scouts on Wednesday evenings, beginning at 7 p.m.

Visit www.faihtasassemblybelleville.com. Ridge Road Church offers Sunday Bible study at 10 a.m. and worship services at 11 a.m. and Sunday evening services at 6 p.m. Visit www.ridgeroadcoc.org and call (734) 485-2930. To learn how you can have your church added to our list each week, give me a call at (734) 699-9020.

Wayne County Fairgrounds is holding their annual Irish Corned Beef Dinner fundraiser this Saturday, March 14, beginning at 6 p.m. at the fairgrounds on Quirk Road. Dinner is \$12 for adults and \$8 for children 8 years and younger. Proceeds will go to the upkeep of the grounds. Call (734) 697-7002 and visit www.waynecountyfairgrounds.net.

JR's Small Engine Repair offers Spring Tune-Up Specials, starting at \$40 when you mention its ad in today's paper. JR fixes lawn mowers, tractors, tillers, chainsaws, and more. Pickup and delivery of your equipment is also available. Call (734) 587-6162 or (734) 564-2039.

St. Paul Lutheran Church in new Boston has vendor tables available for its Indoor Flea Market, April 23-25, at the church located at 19109 Craig St. Call (734) 753-9048.

Life in Belleville Series of seminars continue with Week #2 topic Child Abuse on Wednesday, March 18, at 6 p.m. at the WCCC Ted Scott Campus on Haggerty Road. The event is free and pre-registration can be made by calling (918) 902-9977. The 6-week, 6-topic series is put on and organized by Pastor Nathaniel Oregon of Belleville Seventh Day Adventist Church of Belleville. Other seminar topics include CPR on April 1, Suicide Prevention on April 15, Healthy Cooking on April 28, and Anti-Bullying on May 13. See their ad in today's paper. The CPR class has a \$50 fee.

Do you have a business item you would like to see in this column? Call Bob Mytych at (734) 699-9020 with your suggestion. There is no cost to be in this column.

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— Dr. Seuss

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Robotics

(continued from page 1)

• Opening ceremonies at 10:30 a.m.
• Match competition from 11 a.m. until approximately 7 p.m., with lunch from 1 to 2 p.m.

• Pits close at 8 p.m. (or one hour after last match of the day)

Saturday, March 14

• Doors open at 7:50 a.m.
• Opening ceremonies at 9 a.m.
• Match competition continues from 9:30 a.m. until about 1 p.m., for lunch
• Playoff rounds begin at about 2 p.m.
• Award presentation at about 5 p.m.
• Pits close at 6:30 p.m. (or one hour after completion of awards ceremony)

The Belleville team looks forward to seeing a large enthusiastic crowd representing the 39 visiting teams and hopes that the residents of the Van Buren Public School District will also come out to cheer on the home team.

FIRST, a national organization, stands for: For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology. Its founder Dean Kamen said, “FIRST is more than robots. The robots are a vehicle for students to learn important life skills. Kids often come in not knowing what to expect — of the program nor of themselves. They leave, even after the first season, with a vision, with confidence, and with a sense that they can create their own future.” Kamen also is inventor of the Segway human transport.

The competition at BHS is in need of help from parents and anyone else who might be interested. For more information, contact event coordinator Victor DeLibera, vdlibera@gmail.com or volunteer coordinator Jonathan Williams, jkwilli1@gmail.com.

Community Chorus

invites all to come to the Cabaret on March 22

The Belleville Community Chorus is stepping out with its 11th-annual Cabaret performance at 3 p.m. Sunday, March 22, at Open Arms Lutheran Church, 7865 Belleville Road.

The Cabaret program features chorus members in solo, duet and ensemble versions of pop, oldies, show tunes and more. Although the concert is free, donations to support the chorus are encouraged and welcome. Food and refreshments will be available.

This is an opportunity to hear your friends and neighbors from Belleville, Sumpter, Van Buren, and Ypsilanti join together for a singing good time.

For more information call (734) 697-1763 or (734) 740-4165 or visit www.bellevillechorus.com.

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– Tom Stoppard

School Board approves first sale of bonds for early childhood center

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

The Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education approved the sale of its first series of bonds to build the early childhood development center on the former St. Anthony Church property next to Belleville High School, as approved by voters last fall.

There were eight bidders for the not-to-exceed \$13 million series one bond on Feb. 25 with bids ranging from 2.17 to 2.39% interest, with the winning bid coming from Bank of America Merrill Lynch.

Series two bond for \$9 million will be sold in 2022 and series three for \$13.49 million will be sold in 2024.

The 2020 School Building and Site Bonds, Series I (General Obligation – Unlimited Tax) were purchased for the principle price of \$12,360,000. Cost to issue the bonds is about \$100,382 and any balance remaining from that sum after paying the cost of issuance shall be deposited in the 2020 Capital Projects Fund. The sum of \$12,897,814.72 shall be deposited in the 2020 Capital Projects Fund.

For the \$13 million bond, the bidder paid \$13,627,575.90, with the extra \$627,575.90 a premium that when deducted from the total interest cost of \$4,857,548.89, left a net interest cost of \$4,229,972.99.

Finance Director Sara Cortese said because the competitive bids brought such

great interest, the district will get \$130,000 more than estimated to put into the project.

She said they estimated paying \$25 million in debt and actually it will be \$16 million in debt, a savings of \$8 million for the taxpayers.

"Once the taxpayer starts paying on this, the rate will go down," Director Cortese said.

"This will happen two more times," said board president Amy Pearce, referring to the decision to sell bonds in three series, rather than all at once.

In other business at Monday's 55-minute meeting, the board:

- Approved adding Michigan Class to the district's Authorized Investment list. After discussing investment options for the upcoming bond deposit, the district's investment advisor noted that Michigan Class accounts are outperforming the Huntington portfolios. To make the best investment decisions for the district, Director Cortese asked the board to add Michigan Class to approved investment entities. She said technically, Michigan Class was on the investment list resolution passed in January by the board, but, "I said, oh, we don't use them right now and I took them off";

- Approved the District Wireless Controller and Wireless Access point replacement from Sentinel Technologies as presented by IT Network Administrator Sean Garland. E-rate Universal Service Funds is accepting grant applications to cover 90% of costs to replace the district's Cisco wireless controllers and wireless access points at Belleville High School, McBride Middle School and Owen Intermediate. Garland said the wireless controllers and access points in these buildings are at the end of life with Cisco and will no longer be eligible for support, future enhancements and security updates. The district received two vendor bids and he recommended Sentinel Technologies as

part of the E-rate grant application. Base cost of the project is \$218,651 and if the district gets the grant, the district's share would be \$23,018. At that time the district would decide whether to move forward with the project or not;

- Heard a presentation from Karen Johnston, homeless liaison, on the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. School Supt. Pete Kudlak said board members had asked what this was and so he asked Johnston to explain. Johnston said the law provides for homeless children and youth who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. After eligibility is determined the children, including preschool, have a right to attend their school of origin or the school or residence with immediate enrollment, transportation, and free meals. District of origin and district of residence share the cost of transportation, called "taxi costs." In the 2014-15 school year, there was a total of 114 students and taxi costs of \$53,012. In the 2019-20 school year, there were 67 such students and taxi costs of \$29,148. Board president Pearce said families should know this is available and not be ashamed to ask for help if they are homeless;

- Approved the retirements of teachers William Spinks of Belleville High School as of June 30, after 15 years of service; and Debra Meier of Rawsonville Elementary School as of June 30 after 43 years of service; and Ryan Kasperski of Owen/McBride as of March 16 for relocation after two years of service;

- Approved the hiring of Jawana Patillo-Edwards as guidance counselor at McBride Middle School as of March 16;

- Heard Director Cortese say she had been asked to seek proposals for new marching band uniforms for next year at an estimated cost of \$180,000. She said the current uniforms are 15 years old. Pearce

(continued on page 19)

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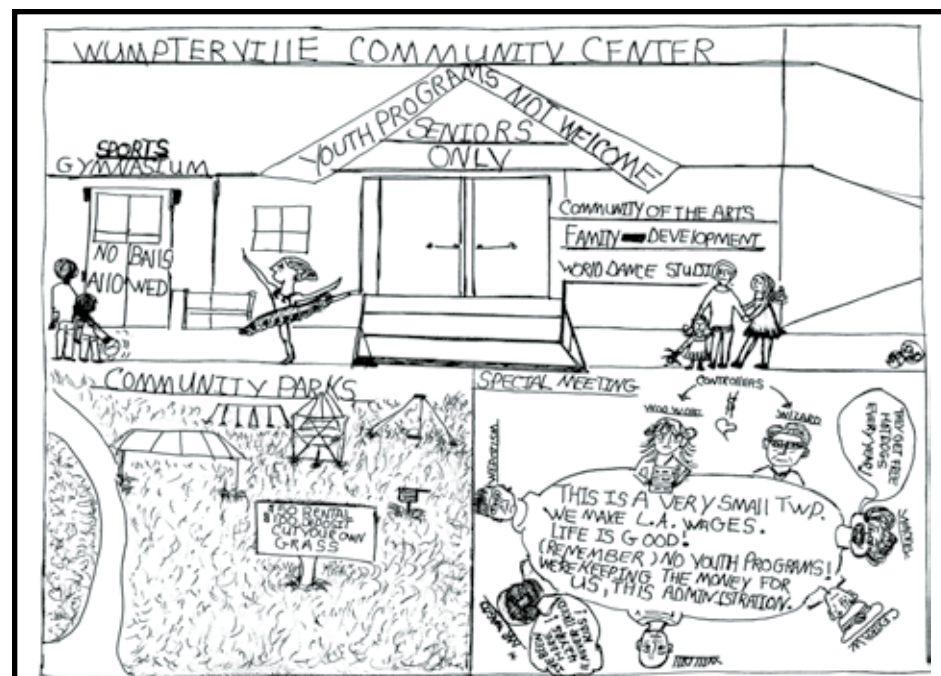
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Cartoon to the Editor



VBT DDA discusses building use, sign policy for house at Harris Park

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

In a special meeting on Feb. 6, the Van Buren Township Downtown Development Authority discussed at length proposed rules for the use of its new house at 10151 Belleville Rd. and how the digital sign in front of the house should be used.

The Placemaking Project which includes the house and Harris Park cost the DDA \$3 million to build.

The meeting use policy and regulations will be put into a final form to present to the DDA for approval at a future meeting.

A two-page "Audience Participation Packet" was presented with the DDA meeting packet, the first ever given out at a DDA meeting. There were two members of the audience and the press at the Feb. 6 meeting and nobody spoke until the end of the meeting under "public comment." The two who spoke were polite and orderly.

It was reported to the *Independent* that a member of the audience spoke out after the close of the Jan. 28 meeting. He was critical of the DDA for designing and constructing the building first before deciding how it was going to be used. He said the DDA should have determined the use before building the house. There could have been a way to extend the space in the limited meeting room for larger groups, he said. A police officer came into the building at that time, but no warning or arrest was made.

At the Feb. 6 meeting, after much discussion, the DDA board decided, among other things, the following:

- The digital, lighted sign in front of the building/park would be for non-profits and community events. Supervisor Kevin McNamara said that the use of the meeting room should be announced on the sign and it should be emphasized the whole project is a service to township residents;

- Public usage of the house could be scheduled from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday. The building is closed on Sundays;

- The staff of two will be scheduled from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, and will put up a sign when they lock up the house and have to be absent for other activities;

- Rental fee for the meeting room is \$25 per use, regardless of the amount of time involved;

- Posted damage fee is \$100 and will be returned if the room is in good condition when the meeting is done. If the user will be renting the room at regular intervals, the damage fee could be retained by the DDA and returned when the DDA is alerted that the user will not use the room any longer;

- A digital lock will be put on the door for access by users and the combination changes at the end of the use, so staff doesn't have to be present. DDA Executive Director Susan Ireland said the lock will cost \$1,500 to install and \$15.75 per month. She said the police department always has access to the building;

- The meeting room is not available for parties, to sell products, for religious services, private meetings, political activities, gambling, those using vaping, tobacco or marijuana, and alcohol. Also, there will be no admission fees. There was a lot of discussion on whether businesses within the township could use the room for private sales meetings or classes. Also, could someone rent the room to make sales calls? Since the DDA wants to promote business in the area, there was reason to believe businesses should be able to use the room. Also, Supervisor McNamara said about private meetings, "That's what we are going to do with it for economic development activities";

- Trash from meetings will be bagged and put behind the building to be put out for trash pickup;

- To call the fire marshal back to set maximum room capacities for each room, since the "library/living room" could be used for some meetings. The fire marshal has determined the main meeting room maximum capacity is 26, but Supervisor McNamara wants to have the capacity of the library, kitchen, and hallways added to that number;

- No food or beverages in the library because of the danger of stains, since there are three chairs, a couch, and carpeting; and

- At the request of Supervisor McNamara, added the word "may" to the statement that says you will lose your \$25 fee if you cancel use of the room after scheduling it.

Marcia Hollins spoke from the audience at the end of the meeting, saying the discussion on return of the damage deposit was disturbing. It was noted after the meeting room was found to be undamaged, it would take six weeks to get the \$100 damage deposit back.

She asked why they couldn't just keep the \$100 check and return it uncashed within a few days if there was no damage. She was considering use of the meeting room for her Homeowners Association.

"We have to follow financial rules," said DDA Assistant Executive Director Lisa Lothringer.

DDA Director Helen Foster had said earlier that, "You have to do what you have to do for a clean audit."

Ireland said they can check to see what options they had legally.

Hollins also suggested they create a list so if one group cancels its scheduled use they could call another group who had wanted it for that same day. It was decided that would make too much work for the staff.

Hollins also suggested that if the room renters wanted to use the library, too, they could mark that on their application so that area would be left unlocked for them and DDA members agreed.

Reg Ion also spoke from the audience, asking how they expected the room users to clean the room in order to get their deposit back. Was it more than just wiping off the meeting table?

Chairman Craig Atchinson said just to

leave it as you found it.

Lothringer said they have a broom and dustpan in the kitchen so the users can sweep the floor.

"In this kind of weather, you track in snow and salt and a broom won't do it," Ion said.

"We're not going to ask them to mop the floor," Atchinson said.

Ion said he had a career in building maintenance and a dust mop is the proper tool for the job. He said dirt on the floor will grind into the floor when the chairs are rolled back and forth. He said they should have chairs that aren't on rollers.

Also, Ion asked if they were going to put portajohns in the park outside. He said if people are in the park and have to urinate and the building is closed, they will just pee in the park. He suggested they would urinate against the garage and, "When you open your door to go outside, you don't

want your door to smell like urine."

He said if someone has the urge to urinate while in the park and the building is closed, the person will not get into his car and drive to Walmart.

Ireland said, "We'll look into that."

A public restroom had been a part of the original plans, but was eliminated to save money.

Present at the Feb. 6 special meeting were: Chairman Atchinson and Directors Joe Baskin, Jr., Jim Chudzinski, Victor Delibera, Helen Foster, Mark Laginess, and Joyce Rochowiak; Executive Director Ireland and Assistant Executive Director Lothringer, who serves as recording secretary at the meetings. Supervisor McNamara was present by phone since he had the flu. Absent were Vice Chairperson Carol Bird, Secretary Chris Brown, and Director Dawn Chappell.



City of Belleville Public Notice



CITY OF BELLEVILLE Regular City Council Meeting Minutes Monday, February 18, 2020

A regular meeting of the Council for the City of Belleville was called to order by Mayor Conley at 7:30 p.m. at City Hall, 6 Main Street, Belleville.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & MOMENT OF SILENCE

2. ROLL CALL

Council Member Bates	Present
Council Member Fielder	Present
Council Member Marcotte	Present
Council Member Voigt	Present
Mayor Conley	Present

3. PRESENTATIONS AND CITIZEN COMMENTS
Presentations

- Mayor Conley introduced Tracey Schultz Kobylarz as the new interim City Manager

Council follow up list

Manager Kobylarz provided Council with a new, expanded follow-up list format with staff assignments and deadlines. There was a discussion on the condition of City Hall and the long-standing leaky roof issue. Other items discussed include the empty store next to City Hall and "next steps" for completing the Doane's Landing project.

Citizen Comments None

4. AGENDA APPROVAL

Motion by Marcotte, Second by Voigt to approve the agenda as presented.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Marcotte, Second by Fielder to approve the City Council regular meeting minutes from February 3rd as presented and special meeting minutes from February 10th, 2020 with one correction.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6. PUBLIC HEARING

A. Utilities Ordinance Amendment: add illicit discharge and connection stormwater control
Motion by Fielder, Second by Voigt to open a public hearing at 7:42 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DPS Director Rick Rutherford explained the need for the amendment to the City's utilities ordinance. Mayor Conley called for comments from the audience. Motion by Marcotte, Second by Fielder to close the public hearing at 7:44 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

7. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES None

8. GENERAL BUSINESS

A. Police Chief Appointment

Motion by Voigt, Second by Bates to approve Resolution No. 20-019 to enter into an employment agreement with David Robinson as Police Chief contingent upon successful completion of a Fifer Investigations Level IV background check. Agreement specifies a 32-hour work week with a pay

rate of \$35 per hour.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

B. Flop E Bunny - CBC

C. Belleville Farmers' Market - CBC

D. Taste of Belleville/Bridge Walk - CBC

E. Harvest Fest Market - CBC

F. Monster Mutt Walk - CBC

G. Halloween - CBC

Motion by Fielder, Second by Voigt to approve Resolution No. 20-020 allowing the Central Business Community (CBC) to hold events (B-G above) as presented. Event management includes coordination with the City's Police and Fire Departments.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

H. Ordinance Amendment: illicit discharge and connection stormwater control

Motion by Fielder, Second by Marcotte to approve Ordinance No. 20-001 to amend the City's utilities ordinance, Chapter 90, by adding to Article III, Storm Sewers, Division 3: "illicit discharge and connection stormwater control."

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

I. Strawberry Festival Policies

There was a general discussion about the Strawberry Festival with its stakeholders present to answer questions and provide input.

Motion by Marcotte, Second by Bates to approve Resolution No. 20-021 to refer the Strawberry Festival administrative and responsibility policies to City Administration for review and recommendations.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

J. Former City Manager's Final Payout

Motion by Voigt, Second by Fielder to approve Resolution No. 20-022 to approve former City Manager Diana Kollmeyer's final payout of \$14,735.34 in accordance with her contract.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE & DEPARTMENTAL EXPENDITURES

Motion by Fielder, Second by Bates to allow Voigt to recuse himself from the vote due to his personal stake in the Hobo Press expenditure.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion by Fielder, Second by Marcotte to approve Resolution No. 20-023 for accounts payable and purchases over \$500.00 totaling \$329,675.05 as presented.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

10. CITIZENS COMMENTS None

11. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Bates, Second by Voigt to adjourn meeting at 9:04 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherri Scharf,

City Clerk

Approved: March 2, 2020

Published: March 12, 2020

VBT

(continued from page 3)

the motion was made by Trustee White and seconded by Treasurer Budd. White then voted no.

In other business at the March 3 regular meeting, the board:

- Approved the Stormwater Maintenance Agreements with Subaru Research and Development, Inc. and U.S. Signal Properties, LLC, as required by Wayne County;
- Approved the 2019 Planning Commission Annual Report, as required by state law. It was prepared by Director of Planning and Economic Development Dan Power;
- Heard Supervisor McNamara announce that Director Power and his wife Tori welcomed their son Hugo into the world

at 10 a.m., March 3. He weighed eight pounds, six ounces and was 22 inches long. He also was four days overdue;

- Approved the prepaid voucher list of Feb. 20 on a vote of 4-1, with Trustee White voting no. The voucher list was removed from the Consent Agenda by White's request, so it could be discussed. He addressed the \$98 lunch for employees paid from donations. He read the law and said it is the duty of those elected to keep public and private money separate and apart and it shall not comingle. If it is, the offending party will be guilty of a misdemeanor. "I'm not saying this is embezzlement ... but comingling." Supervisor McNamara said it doesn't stop the board from donating and they found private donators to pay for the meal. "We found a way around it by doing it legally," McNamara said. Treasurer Budd said the money goes into its own

account for a designated use. She said every member of the board wrote a check for this. Treasurer Budd said the attorney opinion is the same and there is nothing wrong with what they did. "I didn't take any money from the water or tax account... It's in it's own account," Budd said. Supervisor McNamara said this is the third year in a row and the attorney had the same opinion. Trustee Miller said White should file a letter with the attorney general if he still has concerns. Treasurer Budd said the donations were put in their own fund and White said it was in the Board fund under "Other." Budd said it was in another account. "If it was comingled it wouldn't matter," Supervisor McNamara said, "It's not personal money." White insisted a first-grader could understand the situation. McNamara called the question and it was 4-1. Then the board voted on the prepaid

voucher list and it was approved, 4-1;

- Rick Williams of Tyler Road was back to see if the board was going to help him with his water problems. He had attended the Feb. 4 meeting with his request. Director Best said in July 2019 the township engineers reviewed the ditch from Meijer to the McClaughry Drain on Tyler Road and found the ditch was an old privately owned farm drain that was not properly maintained. The ditch is obstructed and floods the properties. If the private owners cleaned the ditch, the flow still wouldn't go correctly because the McClaughry Drain where the ditch empties hasn't been kept clean, Best said. He said in 2014, Romulus and VBT petitioned the county to clean it and the Drain Commission found it not necessary. This drain runs in front of Visteon Village and on the west side of the freeway it floods. McNamara said the township hoped it was Meijer causing the problem, but it wasn't. Williams said 23 years ago when he moved there he could drive his car on the back of his property and it was dry. He said another problem is water coming from Speedway across Tyler Road and running into his property. Williams said the issue with Meijer was already litigated in court and decided in favor of the resident, his neighbor, "but I would rather not go that way." McNamara said the township would be interested in seeing the case and Williams said he would get the case number for them. McNamara said the township is reluctant to spend public money on private property; and
- Heard Trustee Miller said she is glad that Trustee Sherry Frazier, who was ill, was absent from her seat next to Miller at the board table. "If you're sick, please stay home," she said, echoing what the Center for Disease Control is advising the public concerning the coronavirus.

Communications Internship Program

At the March 2 work/study meeting of the board, a proposed 24-page internship program for the Communications Department was discussed. It would be for two high school and two college students, no more than four total. The interns would not be paid, but would get credit at their college or high school.

Supervisor McNamara said they would like to put about \$5,000 in the new budget for this for when those trained in the future could be called back for free-lancing work. Supervisor McNamara said the board wouldn't be voting on this until budget time.

Alysha Albrecht said they are working on a legacy project with the high school, bridging the gap between the youth and senior citizens, by recording oral histories. She said they are working with the library to archive the interviews. As a part of the project, students will make a 4-5 minute video of the person for a special aspect of the person's life.

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES MARCH 3, 2020

Supervisor McNamara called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Board Room. Present: Supervisor McNamara, Treasurer Budd, Trustee Martin, Trustee Miller, and Trustee White. Absent/Excused: Clerk Wright and Trustee Frazier. Others in attendance: Secretary Montgomery, Public Services Director Best and Executive Assistant Renaud, and an audience of four (4).

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE AGENDA: Supervisor McNamara outlined the items appearing on the agenda.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA: Martin moved, Miller seconded to approve the agenda moving Consent agenda item # 3 the Prepaid List of February 20, 2020 to New Business item #3. Motion Carried.

ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA: White moved, Miller seconded to approve the Consent Agenda [Work Study Session Minutes of February 18, 2020, Board Meeting Minutes of February 18, 2020, Prepaid List of February 27, 2020, Voucher List of March 3, 2020, Approval of the 2019 Planning Commission Annual Report, Approval of Resolution 2020-07 and the Stormwater Maintenance Agreement with Subaru Research and Development Inc., Approval of Resolution 2020-06 and the Stormwater Maintenance Agreement with U.S. Signal Properties LLC.] Motion Carried.

PUBLIC HEARING: None.

C O R R E S P O N D E N C E / ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRESENTATIONS:

The following announcements were made: Kids Kwon Do introductory classes to Tae Kwon Do will occur on Thursdays, April 2-June 4 from 6:30 p.m. to 7: 15 p.m. Ages 4 to 7 Residents \$45, Non-residents \$60; youth recreation will have host a 9- week gymnastics session from March 7 to May 16 fees vary by class; learn the basics and beyond about your iPhone at the September Days Senior Center clinic Thursday April 9, 2020; cheerleading with former EMU cheerleader Laura Abney will be on Mondays April 6 to May 11 from 5 to 5:45 p.m. ages 5 and up residents \$50 and non-residents \$65; National Rosie the Riveter Day is Saturday March 21 join us in celebrating at the Belleville Area Museum from 1-4:00 p.m. dressing up as Rosie or a suffragette is strongly encouraged with a group photo at 2:30 p.m.;

the museum is hosting a "When Mark Twain Came to Michigan" (free for members, \$5 for non-members) event with Al & Dave Eicher on March 19 from 6-8 p.m. Pizza, salad, pop served at 5:30 p.m.; the September Days Senior Center will be having a "Drive Away the Winter Blues Golf Clinic" on Thursdays at 1 p.m. starting March 5. This 4-week class will provide information as well as hands on training indoor and out. Sign up at the Senior Center; the Recreation Department is offering an open craft night on Friday, March 27, 2020 from 5 p.m.- 8 p.m., bring your own tools/supplies, \$2.00 per person includes pizza, register at least one day in advance, children must be accompanied by an adult; Parks and Recreation is hosting a fairy play dough or Jar of Dinosaurs Kids Crafty Saturday on March 14, 2020 from 10 a.m. - 11 a.m. for children grades k-5 at the cost of \$5.00 per child, per craft and; the Parks and Recreation "Read & Upload" event runs during the month of March. Everyone is invited to grab a book and reboot your senses by reading in nature at one of our Van Buren Township parks. Snap a pic of you reading in one of our parks and send it to jzaenglein@vanburen-mi.org for us to upload it to our Facebook page; the Hopping Hullabaloo egg hunt will be on Saturday April 4, 2020 from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. with 3 egg hunts for different age categories 10 a.m. toddler -4 yrs., 10:15 a.m. ages 5-9 and 10:25 ages 10-13 ; the Township Administrative offices will be closed on Tuesday March 10, 2020 due to the Presidential Primary Election; the Clerk's Office will be open this Saturday March 7, 2020 from 7:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. for absentee ballots and voter registration and congratulations to Economic Development and Planning Director Dan Powers on the birth of his son this morning.

PUBLIC COMMENT (Unfinished and New Business): None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Budd moved, White seconded to approve the selection of Davenport Brothers Construction in the amount of \$132,000, to be expensed from Account #101-265-970-000 (Capital Outlay) for Entry improvements at Township. Roll Call Vote. Yeas: McNamara, Budd, Martin. Nays: White and Miller. Motion Carried*.

White moved, Budd seconded to approve the selection of Crooked Tree Nursery in the amount of \$133,092.15 to be expensed from Account #101-265-970-000 (Capital Outlay)

for Landscaping improvements at Township Hall. Roll Call Vote. Yeas: McNamara, Budd, Martin. Nays: White and Miller. Motion Carried*.

Miller moved, Martin seconded to approve the Prepaid List of February 20, 2020. Supervisor White questioned payment for the employee holiday lunch which was funded by donations. White read Section 750.490 of The Michigan Penal Code (Excerpt) Act 328 of 1931, 750.490 Safe keeping of public moneys and expressed his interpretation that the code disallows donation funds and expenses being co-mingled with Township funds. Treasurer Budd clarified that donation funds are not comingled and that the Township attorney has presented a legal opinion on this matter that indicates the procedure is legally compliant and donation funds are held in separate accounts. Roll Call Vote. Yeas: McNamara, Budd, Martin and Miller. Nays: White. Motion Carried.

Miller called the question, seconded by McNamara. Roll call vote. Yeas: McNamara, Budd, Martin and Miller. Nays: White. Motion Carried.

REPORTS: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT NON-AGENDA ITEMS: Resident requested follow up on the water issue on his property and how it relates to the ditch on Tyler Rd. A study of the issue was performed at the request of the Township by the engineering firm of Fishbeck that indicated the ditch is a privately owned ditch that has not been maintained by the property owner(s). The report further indicated that the Wayne County McClaughry drain also needed to be cleaned out however Wayne County, in 2014, determined that clean-out was not necessary.

BOARD COMMENT NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

ADJOURNMENT: Miller moved, Martin seconded to adjourn at 6:40 p.m. Motion Carried.

*Supervisor McNamara indicated these motions had failed however, upon review of Roberts Rules, the motion(s) did not require a majority of the Board (4 votes) for passage, the motion only required a majority of the board attending the meeting (3 votes), and therefore both passed.

Leon Wright, Township Clerk
Kevin McNamara, Supervisor
Published: March 12, 2020

**One Call Does It All . . .
. . . At the Independent
699-9020**

Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

Out of the 481 dispatch calls reported by Van Buren Township police, the following are selected for this column.

Sunday, March 1:

0040 – operating while intoxicated, W. Huron River Dr. / Rawsonville Rd.
0107 – threat, Fisher Rd.
0411 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd. / S. I-94 Service Dr.
0433 – suspicious person/vehicle, Water’s Edge Ln. / S. I-94 Service Dr.
0717 – assist other dept., Tyler/Tyler extension
0906 – domestic, Parkwood Dr.
1124 – traffic offense, Mansfield Ct.
1135 – suspicious person/vehicle, Outer Dr.
1156 – civil matter, Parkwood Dr.
1342 – assist other dept., Lunchbox
1651 – disorderly, Belleville Rd.
1735 – disorderly, Rawsonville Rd.
1755 – private property/property damage accident, Belleville Rd.

1855 – leaving the scene of a property damage accident, N. I-94 Service Dr.
1902 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd.
2132 – suspicious person/vehicle, Bemis/Haggerty
2238 – lost property/child, Belleville Rd.
2328 – traffic offense, Huron River Dr./Hannan

Monday, March 2:

0102 – breaking & entering, S. Ponderosa Trl.
0750 – property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd. / Grove St.
0845 – leaving the scene of a property damage accident, Lake Pointe Pass
1133 – ordinance violation, Reene Dr.
1300 – property damage accident, E. I-94/Haggerty
1304 – ordinance violation, Savage Rd.
1338 – traffic offense, E. I-94/Belleville Rd.
1419 – threat, Sylvia Dr.
1438 – assist other dept., Maple Dr.
1504 – ordinance violation, Morton Taylor / Van

Born
1515 – noise complaint, Maple Dr.
1622 – misc. complaint, Morton Taylor Rd.
1712 – fraud, Parkwood Dr.
1737 – suspicious person/vehicle, Ironwood Dr.
1736 – suspicious person/vehicle, McKinley St.
1930 – domestic, E. Archwood Dr.
2107 – suspicious person/vehicle, Rawsonville Rd.
2129 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
2158 – suspicious person/vehicle, Hamilton/Hayes

Tuesday, March 3:

0105 – disorderly, N. I-94 Service Dr.
0516 – domestic, Briarwood Dr.
0810 – ordinance violation, Patty Ln.
0937 – unauthorized driving away of auto, S. Bellridge Dr.
0952 – animal complaint, Haggerty Rd.
1119 – property damage accident, Belleville/Tyler
1221 – property damage accident, Tyler Rd.
1304 – animal complaint, Renton Rd./Bemis Rd.
1320 – ordinance violation, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1336 – suspicious person/vehicle, Maple Dr.
1340 – malicious destruction of property, Parkwood Dr.

1424 – ordinance violation, Alden Ave.
1424 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
1440 – traffic offense, Tyler Rd./Belleville Rd.
1444 – larceny, Parkwood Dr.
1508 – road hazard, S. I-94 Service Dr. / Rawsonville Rd.

1815 – civil matter, Senate St.
1939 – civil matter, Daisy Blvd.
2050 – disorderly, Locust Dr.
2359 – 911 welfare check, Denton Rd.

Wednesday, March 4:

0454 – suicidal person, Parkwood Dr.
0634 – suspicious person/vehicle, Ormond Dr.
0702 – parking complaint, W. Archwood Dr.
0720 – larceny, Sumpter Rd.
0731 – mental subject, Locust Dr.
0733 – juvenile complaint, Rolan Meadows Dr.
0733 – juvenile complaint, Morton Taylor Rd.
0802 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd.
0956 – suspicious person/vehicle, EB Michigan Ave. / bypass
1124 – juvenile complaint, Ayres Ave/Van Allen
1129 – animal complaint, Tyler Rd.
1135 – disorderly, Laguna Dr.

1346 – disorderly, Harbour Club
1349 – traffic offense, E. I-94/Belleville Rd.
1620 – larceny, Parkwood Dr.
1707 – private property/property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd.
1753 – missing person, Berkdale Dr.
1812 – suspicious person/vehicle, Beverly Rd.
2018 – suspicious person/vehicle, E. I-94/Haggerty
2111 – parking complaint, Belleville Rd.
2254 – parking complaint, Belleville Rd.

Thursday, March 5:

0514 – family trouble, N. Woodbury Dr.
0527 – suspicious person/vehicle, N. Ponderosa
0916 – animal complaint, Pine Dr.
1109 – found property/child, Belleville Rd.
1303 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd.
1309 – ordinance violation, Alden Ave.
1311 – ordinance violation, Haggerty Rd.
1323 – animal complaint, Martz Rd.
1434 – animal complaint, Renton Rd.
1504 – private property impound, Haggerty Rd. / Independence Ln.

1518 – private property impound, Ecorse Rd.
1546 – braking & entering, Victoria St.
1701 – domestic, Kirkridge Park Dr.
1706 – malicious destruction of property, Westlake Cir.
1733 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1857 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1904 – civil matter, Parkwood Dr.
1915 – parking complaint, Rawsonville Rd.
1954 – suspicious person/vehicle, DNR boat launch / Rawsonville Rd.
2046 – 911 welfare check, Outer Dr.
2108 – 911 welfare check, Outer Dr.

Friday, March 6:

0255 – suspicious person/vehicle, Water’s Edge Ln. / S. I-94 Service Dr.
0332 – parking complaint, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0337 – parking complaint, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0414 – found property/child, Belleville Rd.
0532 – suspicious person/vehicle, S. Bellridge Dr.
0648 – animal complaint, Dalton Dr.
0807 – animal complaint, Wildbrook Dr.
0951 – private property impound, Parkwood Dr.
1103 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1250 – juvenile complaint, Rolan Meadows Dr.
1344 – suspicious person/vehicle, Riggs Rd.
1443 – suspicious person/vehicle, Arthur St.
1504 – domestic, Daniel Dr.
1546 – assist other dept. Maple Dr.
1546 – suspicious person/vehicle, Outer Dr.
1630 – domestic, S. Bellridge Dr.
1719 – suspicious person/vehicle, N. Timberview
1742 – leaving the scene of a property damage accident, Belleville Rd.

2121 – suicidal person, Ecorse Rd.
2136 – parking complaint, Belleville Rd.
2215 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / Van Born Rd.

Saturday, March 7:

0213 – suspicious person/vehicle, N. I-94 Service
0519 – suspicious person/vehicle, N. I-94 Service
0610 – civil matter, Spencer Ave.
0645 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
0930 – harassment call, Denton Rd.
1052 – larceny from auto, Sylvia Dr.
1106 – fraud, Sumpter Rd.
1155 – lost property/child, E. Cherry
1205 – road hazard, Belleville Rd. / S. I-94 Service
1242 – traffic offense, Sumpter Rd.
1322 – larceny, Old Michigan Rd.

1402 – suspicious person/vehicle, Pierce St. / McBride Ave.
1556 – domestic, Denton Rd.
1641 – 911 welfare check, Belleville Rd.
1752 – road hazard, Haggerty Rd./E. Huron River
1756 – domestic, Brandi Dr.
1815 – road hazard, Haggerty Rd./E. Huron River
2040 – threat, Cobblestone Creek Dr.
2259 – road hazard, S. I-275/Tyler Rd.

Also on this week’s log are 210 traffic stops, 98 of which are on the I-94 and I-275 freeways.

Belleville Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, March 1:

0447 – suspicious person/vehicle, W. Huron River
1335 – suspicious person/vehicle, Lunchbox
1658 – suspicious person/vehicle, Sumpter Rd.

Monday, March 2:

1210 – suspicious person/vehicle, Sumpter Rd.
1548 – property damage accident, South St. / Sumpter Rd.
1908 – follow up by officer, Belleville Rd.
2158 – suspicious person/vehicle, N. Edgemont
2351 – parking complaint, Roland St.
Tuesday, March 3:
0036 – intrusion alarm, Fourth St.
0909 – private property/property damage accident, W. Columbia Ave.
1530 – traffic offense, N. Liberty St./Main St.
2221 – welfare check, Main St.

Wednesday, March 4:

0759 – assist other dept., Belle Villa Blvd. / Carmell
0852 – juvenile complaint, W. Columbia Ave.
0953 – assist fire dept., S. Liberty St.
2047 – assist fire dept., N. Edgemont Ave.

Thursday, March 5:

0006 – intrusion alarm, E. Columbia Ave.
1140 – juvenile complaint, W. Huron River Dr. / Bay Pointe Dr.
1334 – suspicious person/vehicle, Sumpter Rd. / Belle Villa Blvd.
1407 – misc. complaint, W. Columbia Ave.

Friday, March 6:

1310 – misc. complaint, W. Columbia Ave.
1427 – assist other dept., E. Columbia Ave.
1518 – leaving the scene of a property damage accident, E. Huron River Dr.
1539 – intrusion alarm, E. Thornhill Ct.
1934 – assist fire dept., Carmell St.

Saturday, March 7:

0932 – property damage accident, Main St. / E. Huron River Dr.
0951 – intrusion alarm, W. Columbia Ave.
1052 – fraud, Main St.
1705 – parking complaint, High St.

Also on this week’s log are 22 traffic stops.

Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, March 1:

1112 – 911 hang up, 40000 bl. Harris Rd.
1441 – death investigation, 42000 bl. Arkona Rd.
1814 – animal complaint, 48000 bl. Harris Rd.
2058 – assault, Washington St.
2123 – suspicious incident, 40000 bl. Bemis Rd.
2126 – fire dept. assist, 49000 bl. Wear Rd.
2254 – property damage accident, 9400 bl. Rawsonville Rd.

Monday, March 2:

0119 – fire dept. assist, 43000 bl. Willow Rd.
0307 – operating while intoxicated arrest, Oakville Waltz Rd. / Haggerty Rd.
1230 – civil matter, 44000 bl. Wear Rd.
1839 – citizen assist, Nevada St.
2057 – suspicious vehicle, 40000 bl. Willis Rd.
2237 – welfare check, 8500 bl. Meadow Springs

Tuesday, March 3:

0654 – suspicious incident, Edgewood Dr.
0856 – welfare check, 47000 bl. Bemis Rd.
0901 – breaking & entering, 18000 bl. Elwell Rd.
1500 – civil matter, 44000 bl. Wear Rd.
1631 – property damage accident, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

1740 – welfare check, 50000 bl. Judd Rd.
1842 – warrant arrest pick up, Second St.
2100 – suspicious incident, 18000 bl. Elwell Rd.

Wednesday, March 4:

0306 – fire dept. assist, Hawaii St.
1438 – fire dept. assist, 45000 bl. Harris Rd.
1753 – suspicious person, Lohr Rd./Willis Rd.

Thursday, March 5:

1331 – civil matter, Rustic Ln.
1510 – 911 hang up, Rustic Ln.
1622 – property damage accident, 49000 bl. Bemis
1846 – animal complaint, 43000 bl. willow Rd.
1944 – civil matter, Washington St.

Friday, March 6:

0306 – suspicious incident, 42000 bl. Bemis Rd.
0650 – property damage accident, 28000 bl. Clark
0849 – mental health call, 21000 bl. Bohn Rd.
1130 – warrant arrest pick up, Oakville Waltz Rd. / Rawsonville
1313 – 911 hang up, 23000 bl. Carleton West Rd.
1410 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1528 – civil matter, 23000 bl. Elwell Rd.
1728 – fire dept. assist, 43000 bl. Judd Rd.
1741 – fire dept. assist, 25000 bl. Haggerty Rd.

1858 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

Saturday, March 7:

0534 – suspicious incident, Creekside Dr.
0742 – fire dept. assist, Rustic Ln./Creekside Dr.
0821 – fire dept. assist, 41000 bl. Willis Rd.
1006 – 911 hang up, 49000 bl. Bemis Rd.
1422 – 911 hang up, 28000 bl. Haggerty Rd.
1459 – suspicious incident, Edgewood Dr.
1537 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

Also on this week’s log are 30 traffic stops, 35 patrol checks, and six miscellaneous details.

Tri community voters pass DIA renewal, endorse Biden, Trump

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

The counties of Oakland, Macomb, and Wayne passed the renewal millage for the Detroit Institute of Arts in the March 10 election, including those voters in the tri-communities of Belleville, Sumpter, and Van Buren, according to unofficial results.

Belleville voters cast 689 yes votes and 258 no votes for the DIA; Sumpter voters were 1,054 yes and 792 no; and VBT voters were 5,565 yes and 2,368 no.

Belleville primary votes:

Democratic ballots were 370 for Joe Biden, 282 for Bernie Sanders, 32 for Michael Bloomberg, 10 for Elizabeth Warren, 9 for Pete Buttigieg and 5 for Elizabeth Warren, with other votes for the 15 people on the ballot, 5 or less each. There was 1 unresolved write-in.

Republican ballots were 215 for Donald Trump, 7 for uncommitted, 2 for Bill Weld, and 1 for Mark Sanford.

Sumpter Township primary votes:

Democratic ballots were 680 for Biden, 414 for Sanders, 56 for Bloomberg, 15 for Warren, 12 for Buttigieg, 10 for uncommitted, 9 for Klobuchar, and the rest 6 or less, with 1 unresolved write-in.

Republican ballots were 620 for Trump, 10 for uncommitted, 4 for Weld, 3 for Sanford, and 1 for Joe Walsh, with 1 unresolved write-in.

Van Buren Township primary votes:

Democratic ballots were 3,419 for Biden, 2,056 for Sanders, 326 for Bloomberg, 130 for uncommitted, 106 for Warren, 75 for Buttigieg, 33 for Klobuchar, 20 for Tulsi Gabbard, and the rest 8 and under.

Republican ballots were 1,651 for Trump, 90 for uncommitted, 17 for Weld, 10 for Sanford, and 9 for Walsh, along with 3 unresolved write-ins.

Upcoming Meetings

- Thursday, March 12 – Keystone Academy School Board at 6 p.m. Also, Belleville Planning Commission at 7 p.m.
- Monday, March 16 – Van Buren Township work/study meeting, 4 p.m. Also, Belleville City Council, 7:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, March 17 – Van Buren Township regular meeting, 6 p.m.
- Wednesday, March 18 – Belleville Downtown Development Authority, 6 p.m. Also, Van Buren Township Environmental Commission, 7 p.m.



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This is a group picture from the Feb. 5 Belleville Day in Florida annual celebration at Citrus Hills Golf and Country Club in Hernando, FL. Lynn Gorman served as chairperson of the event.

School Board

(continued from page 15)

said as the band grew parents went out into the community to get funds. Pearce said the new ones are more awesome and flexible. Cortese said this is expected to come before the board at the first meeting in April. She added, maybe it would be a good idea to set aside funds each year to plan for uniform replacement in the future;

• Heard Supt. Kudlak say on March 10 they would be interviewing three finalists for construction manager of the early childhood development center and a recommendation would come to the board

at its next meeting, March 23;

• Heard Trustee Simone Pinter say that she was at Edgemont Elementary School and she saw a girl take down the flag and fold it correctly. Some boys were interested and she taught them how to fold it correctly. Trustee Pinter said when she complimented the girl on her flag work, she said, "I learned it here," which pleased her a lot; and

• Heard Pearce note that Owen Intermediate School needs more food donated. Director of Instruction Jeff Moore said since *Van Buren Today* magazine did a feature story on the free food and clothes at Owen more people have been using the service.

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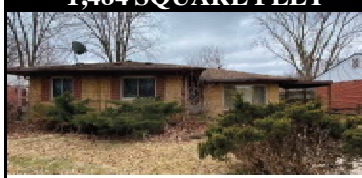
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